

Minutes of a meeting of Bilsington Parish Council held at Bilsington Village Hall on Thursday 24th April 2025 at 7:00pm.

Present: Councillors; S Hudson (Chair), M Bilham, L Lawson and R Thompson.

In attendance: Peter Setterfield PSLCC, Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer.

Also present: Cllr L Harman (ABC), P New (Neighbourhood Watch) and 1 resident.

1147. Apologies for absence:

There were no declarations of interest.

1148. Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Lawson declared an interest in minute 1149 Back to Nature Burials as the owner of the land being proposed.

1149. Presentation by Back to Nature Burials:

Jo Williamson and Hannah Yates gave a presentation on their proposals for a natural burial ground at Bilsington Priory before a full planning application is submitted to Ashford Borough Council, pre-planning advice having already been obtained. Members were given the opportunity to ask questions no decision was made.

1150. Minutes:

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20th February 2025 were submitted, agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

1151. Planning matters:

Planning application PA/2025/0437 Building No6, Hans Farm, Tar Pot Lane – Replacement building (Building No6) into a steel framed agribarn (retrospective).

Resolved: The Parish Council object to the application as the proposed usage is light industrial yet no indication has been given as to the proposed type of industrial unit. The application site is situated on a narrow rural lane barely suitable for farm machinery and unsuitable for large industrial vehicles and adjacent to two buildings already converted to light industrial. With light industrial the fire service should be consulted as the risks are far greater than agricultural due to the potential usage of chemicals and gases. In the event of fire water run off will pollute the adjacent water way leading into the Royal Military Canal.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm to hold the Annual Parish Meeting.

The meeting was reconvened at 8:30pm

Planning application PA/2025/0671 Windy Nook, Ashford Road – Replacement self-build dwelling and detached car barn with roof level accommodation, together with new landscaping and biodiversity enhancements following demolition of existing dwelling, detached garage and outbuildings.

Resolved: The Parish Council supports the proposals however it is concerned about the number of rooflights shown in the plans. Full compliance with the

dark skies policy is requested as the plot is in a prominent hill top position. The Parish Council request that the adjoining field retains its agricultural status and not converted to residential.

1152. Highways:

The latest update on the proposed village gateways was that the designs were awaited and confirmation of the budget for 2025/26.

1153. Finance:

Schedule of payments:

Staff costs February	£402.01
Staff costs March	£436.31
Clerk's expenses	£14.40
Kent Association of Local Council	£236.64

Resolved: To authorise the payment of the items in the schedule.

1154. Items for information:

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:00pm.

Action points:

- 1. Clerk to follow up Highways Improvement Plan with Kent Highways**
- 2. Cllr Bilham to obtain a replacement flag**